

Hotel de Marseille.

Monaco. Alpes Maritimes

Feb. 23rd 1908

My dear Kathleen

I have had some rather interesting though rather disappointing news about our great grandfather & further Edward Henry Aldridge & Leah North.

1) No certificate of birth, marriage or deaths of either can be traced, nor can any will be found of either.

112 hills under the name of Aldridge have been examined of people living in a number of counties in England & in Ireland a few only were resident in northern counties & they only in Lancs. & Cheshire not York, but most were from the same counties.

2) A will of a Leah Aldridge of the parish of Newbalden Berks was found dated October 1795 & proved in 1804 but she was described a "spinster".

3) Edward Henry & Leah ^{North} had 4 children (mentioned in Grandfather's will) Edward Henry, Napoleon, Leah & Virginia. Leah married Berens & she was born in 1798 but not baptised till 1802 & Napoleon was born in October 1801 & baptised in 1802

4) The North family. The only possible connection can be with one Brownlow North 1741-1820 son of Francis 1st Earl of Guilford by 2nd wife Elizabeth only d. of Sir Arthur Kaye & widow of his nephew Leishman. Brownlow entered Trinity Col. Oxford (founded by his ancestor Sir Thomas Pope), then entered the Church & became Bishop of Coventry & Lichfield & later of Worcester & finally of Winchester. He died 1771. His wife Maria Bannister & she died 1798. They had 4 daughters & 3 sons. Francis became 6th Earl of Guilford on death of his cousin 5th Earl.

Do you know how Grandfather was connected with Grandmother, was it through his father or mother?

What made Mother think her grandparents lived in Palestine?

2^d Charles Augustus became prebendary of Winchester
3^d Bramble. These are all mentioned in the Bishop's will
But nothing can be found about what happened to Bramble.
As the Bishop married in 1771 + Leah North married
Edward Henry in 1797 this gives an interval of 26 years.
The supposition is Ed Leah — many Brambles in say 1792
she died soon after so that she was ^{M^r} Leah North when she met
+ married her great grandfather or was she one of the North
family? Was there something mysterious about the
marriage as why did Edward Henry + his wife take their infant
daughter to Oxford + the son to be born there + both baptised
the same time. Presuming the connection with the Bishop
of Winchester family perhaps this was how Napoleon obtained
when only a youth an important appointment at the Queen's
Bench. The Norths were in the Law + the 1st Baron was
Lord Chief Justice.
What happened to Edward Henry + why can we find of his life
no death certificate also why did he name his son Napoleon at
such a time. The supposition is that he was in some way in
connection with the Emperor + perhaps ended his days + had been
married in France, hence no certificate in England. This might
explain Grandfather's extraordinary silence about his parents +
child but if his father was a traitor to England + great ad-
mirer of the Emperor.
What do you think of all this? Do you remember any talk
about the North family? I remember vaguely a mention of a
Colonel North who Mother said was a relation, do you?
I don't know why Leah couldn't have been the Bishop's daughter
but I am writing to ask this. But isn't it funny Edward Henry
is such a mysterious figure with no birth, marriage + death
certified where did he come from?
I am so glad Rosemary + Virginia have met, & liked V. very
much.
The sun is lovely here but the wind is very cold + strong.
Love from Margaret.